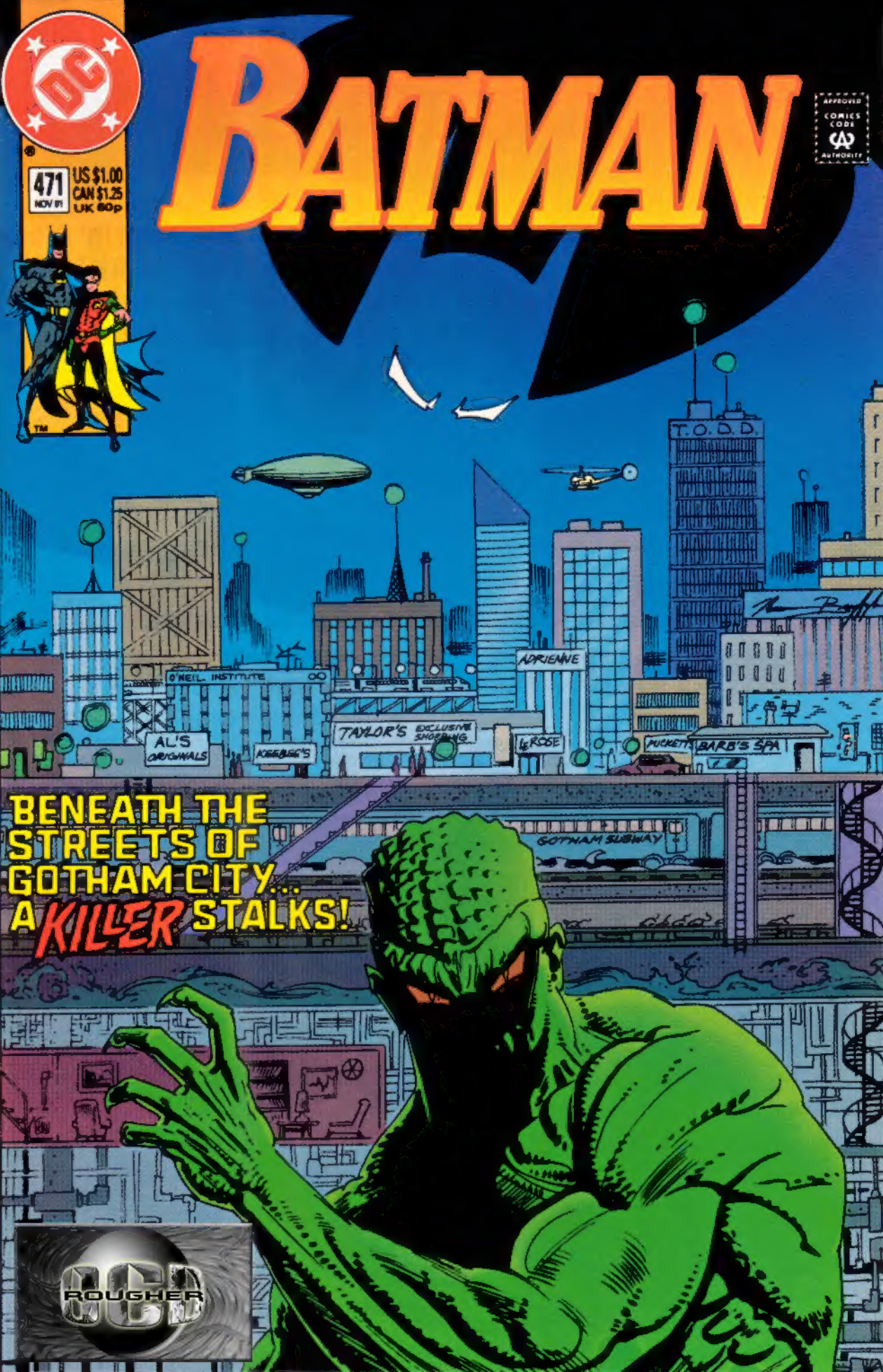
BATMAN
471
NOV 91
US $1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 60p
APPROVED
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY
BENEATH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY... A KILLER STALKS!
T.O.D.D
O'NEIL INSTITUTE
ADRIENNE
AL'S ORIGINALS
TAYLOR'S
ROSE
BARB'S SPA
GOTHAM SUBWAY
ROUGHER

**BATMAN** 471. November, 1991. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $12.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A.
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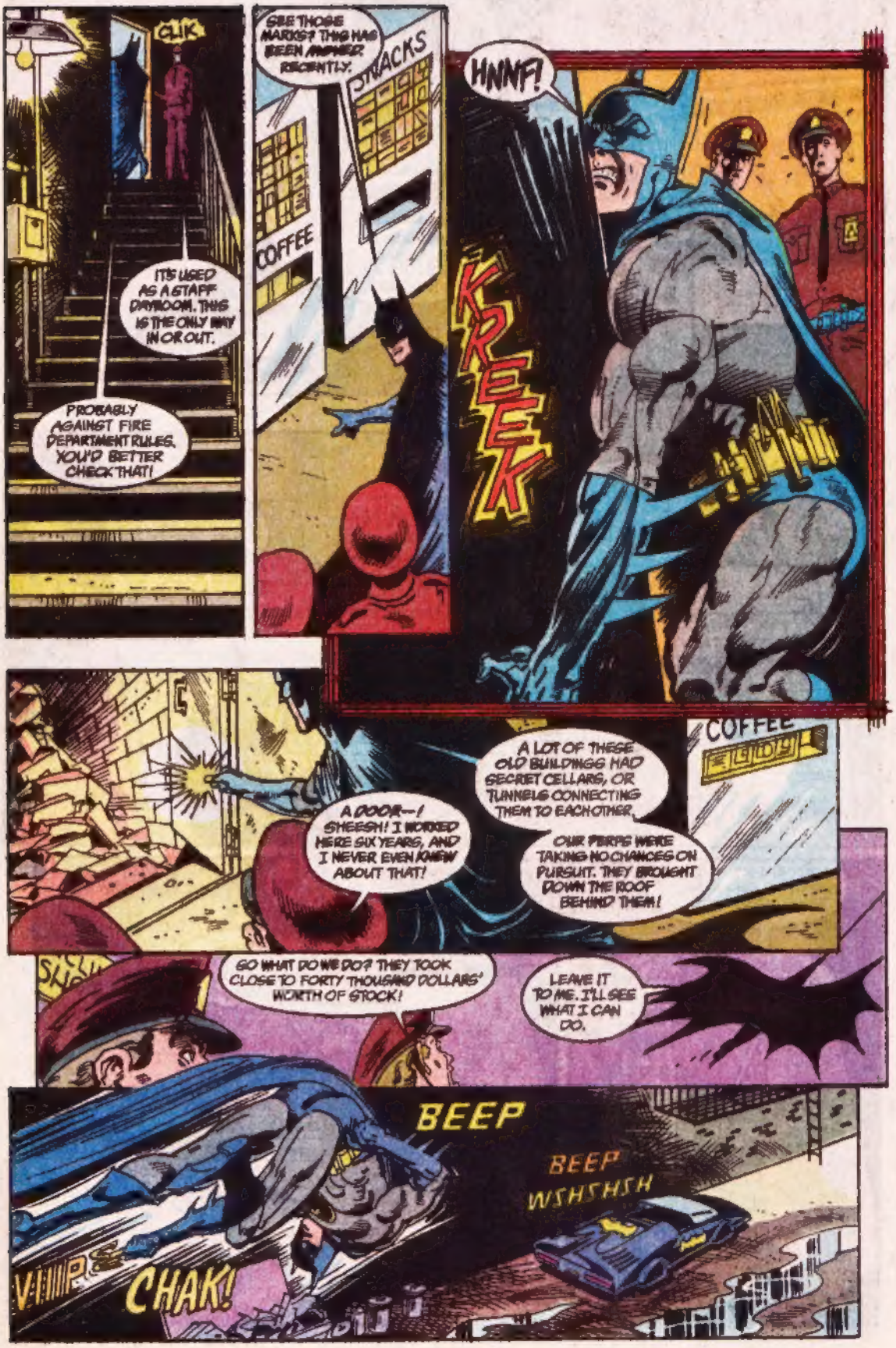
I SMELL THE ACRID TANG OF MY OWN FRAZZLED FLESH. FIRE RAGES IN MY HEAD. I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO I AM!
DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE, BATMAN. HE STILL SHOWS SEVERE CRIMINAL TENDENCIES!
HE'LL COME ROUND TO OUR WAY OF THINKING, DOC.
GIVE HIM ANOTHER MILLION VOLTS!
NO!
SNAP!
AND THEN IT ALL COMES FLOODING BACK--
I'M KILLER CROC!
CHRNK!
UHNN
CHANK!
THIS BRAIN AIN'T FOR FRYIN'!
WUMP!
FIZZT
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, YA GHOUL! IT'S ALWAYS YOUR FAULT!
VZZT
I DON'T WANNA THINK LIKE YOU! I WANNA BE ME!
VZZT

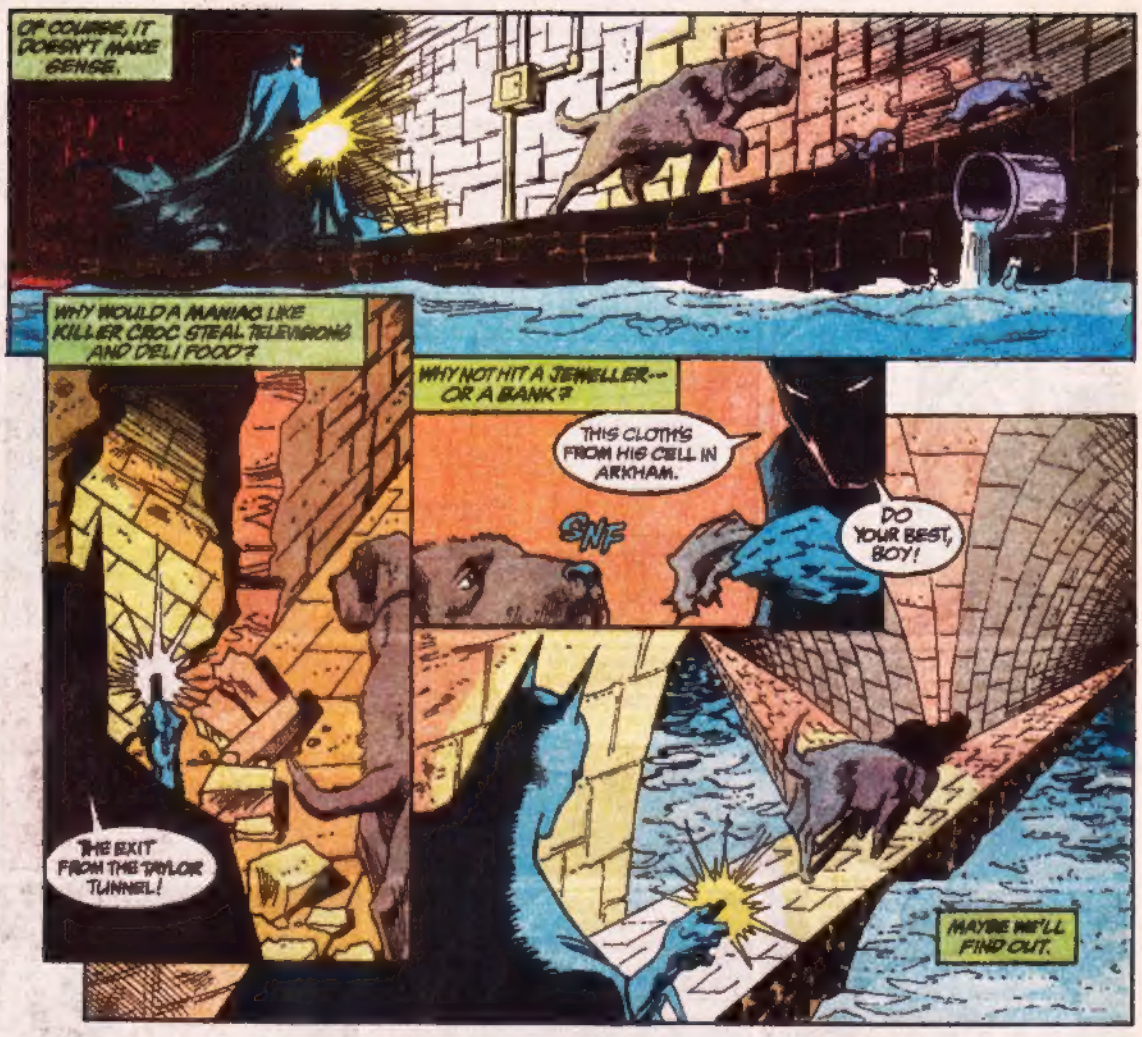
DIE! DIE!
:CHOKE!: :GURK!:
WAYLON! WAYLON--STOP IT!
H-HUH...?
YOU'RE HAVING A NIGHTMARE! IT'S ME, FOR GOD'S SAKE--YOUR FRIENDS...!
YOUR FRIENDS!
AUNT MARCY?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BOY. I'M HERE.
I...I DREAMED I WAS BACK IN ARKHAM. THEM GHOULS WERE TRYIN' TO BURN MY BRAIN!
FALLOUT SHELT
THERE...YOU'RE SAFE NOW. AUNT MARCY WON'T LET ANYONE HURT YOU.
♪ ♫ HUSH, LITTLE BABY, ♪ DON'T SAY A WORD. MOMMA'S GONNA BUY YOU A MOCKINGBIRD. ♫♪

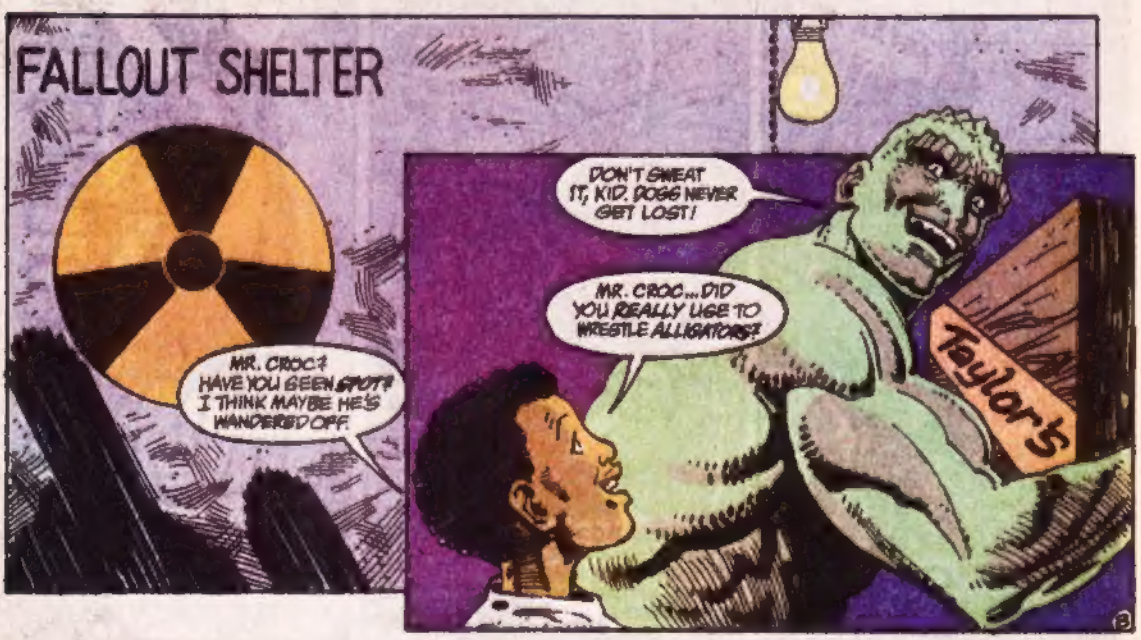
AND IF THAT ♪MOCKINGBIRD♪ CAN'T SING...
BIG LUG ALMOST STRANGLED ME! HE'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS!
AHH, IT'S NOT HIS FAULT. HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET HIM STAY. HECK, IT'S NOT AS IF MARCY REALLY IS HIS AUNT!
WHAT'S THAT MATTER? SHE KEEPS HIM IN LINE.
REMEMBER--IT WAS KILLER FOUND THIS PLACE. IT WAS HIM STOLE ALL THAT STUFF FOR US. THIS WHOLE SCAM IS HIS IDEA!
♪...AND IF THAT ♪ PRIVATE EYE CAN'T SEE...♪
NOW COME ON. REST PERIOD'S OVER. WE GOT WORK TO DO!
Taylor's
SORRY, GENTLEMEN...
EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING
Taylor's
ROOF ACCESS IS RUSTED SHUT. YOUR THIEVES DIDN'T GET IN THAT WAY.
BUT THE STORE WAS LOCKED--ALL KEYS ACCOUNTED FOR. THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION!
YOU HAVE A BASEMENT?
SURE. BUT THERE'S NO--
SHOW ME.
4


CLIK
IT'S USED AS A STAFF DAYROOM. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT.
PROBABLY AGAINST FIRE DEPARTMENT RULES. YOU'D BETTER CHECK THAT!
SEE THOSE MARKS? THIS HAS BEEN ANSWERED RECENTLY.
SNACKS
COFFEE
HNNF!
KREEK
A DOOR--! SHEESH! I WORKED HERE SIX YEARS, AND I NEVER EVEN KNEW ABOUT THAT!
A LOT OF THESE OLD BUILDINGS HAD SECRET CELLARS, OR TUNNELS CONNECTING THEM TO EACH OTHER.
OUR PERPS WERE TAKING NO CHANCES ON PURSUIT. THEY BROUGHT DOWN THE ROOF BEHIND THEM!
COFFEE
SLOW
GO WHAT DO WE DO? THEY TOOK CLOSE TO FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS' WORTH OF STOCK!
LEAVE IT TO ME. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
BEEP
BEEP
WSHSHSH
VHIP
CHAK!

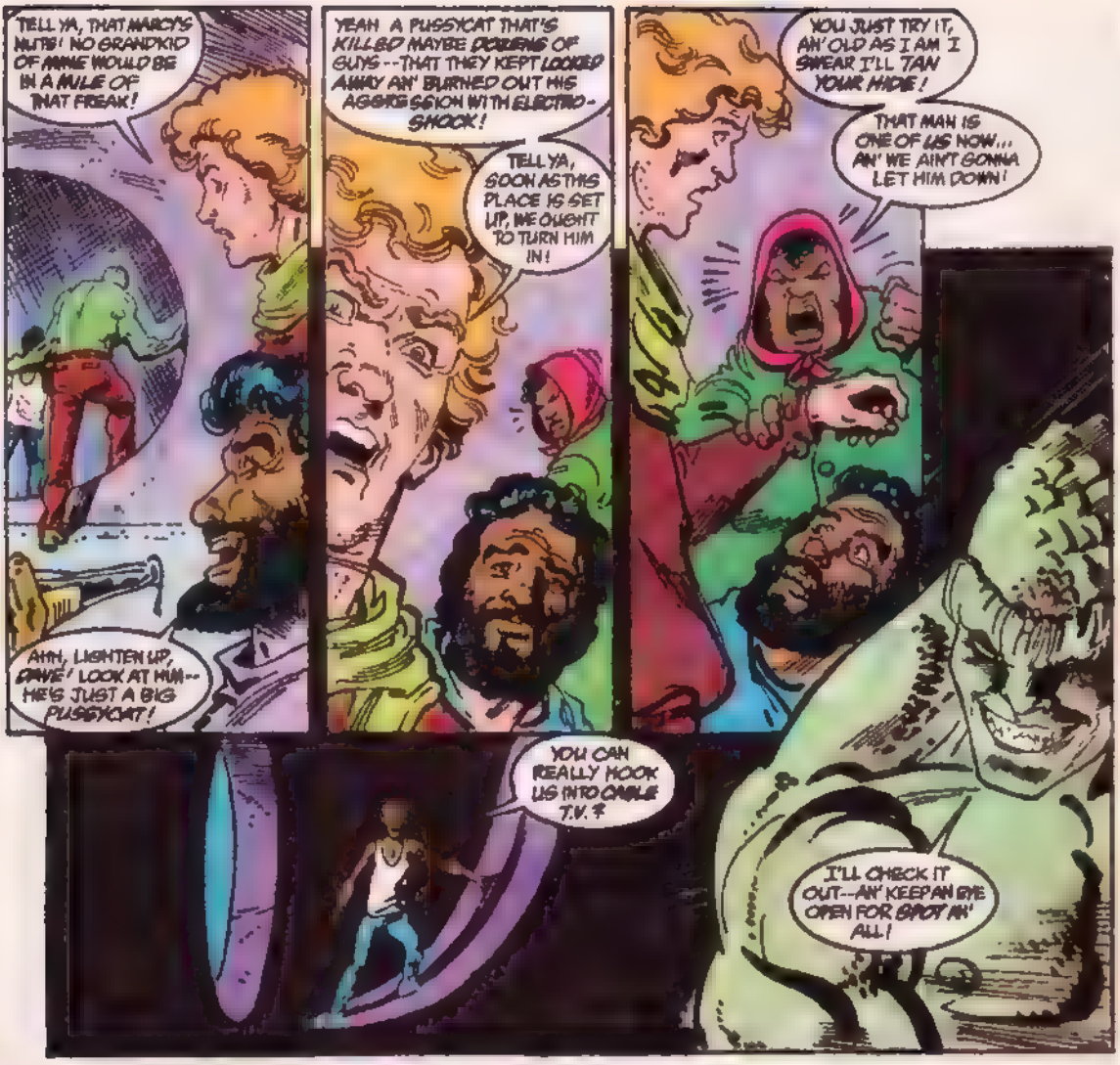
WUMP!
HI, ACE. READY FOR YOUR TRAINING SESSION?
FIRST ROBIN, NOW YOU... I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A SCHOOL-MASTER.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. JUST NEED TO CHECK SOMETHING WITH ROBIN...
WOW! IT'S LIKE A WHOLE OTHER WORLD DOWN THERE!
LOOK AT THAT, ALFRED-- SEWERS, SUBWAYS, WATER TUNNELS, POWER LINES...
THERE'S EVEN AN UNDERGROUND STREAM!
THAT WAS A GREAT IDEA OF BATMAN'S, HAVING ME COLLATE ALL THE UNDERCITY DATA I COULD FIND ONTO ONE MAP.
WE COULD MAKE A FORTUNE SELLING IT TO TOURISTS!
SOMEHOW, MASTER ROBIN, I DOUBT IF THAT WAS HIS INTENTION!
AND SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL...
METAPHORICALLY, OF COURSE!
BEEP-EEP
6

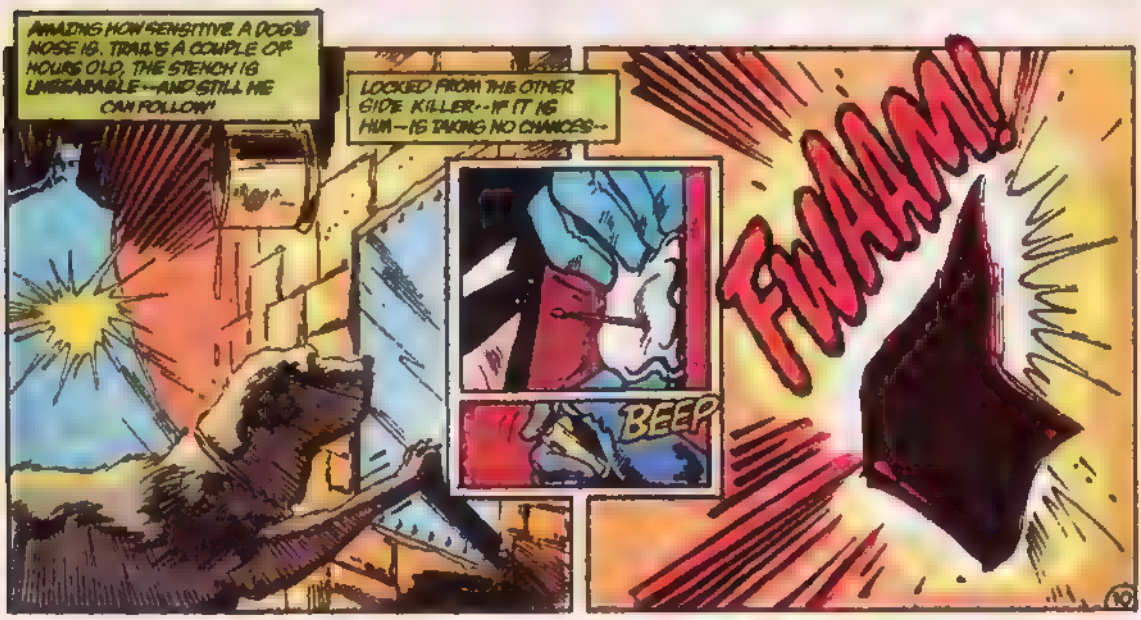
BATMAN? YOU SHOULD SEE THE UNDERCITY MAP! IT'S AMAZING!
GOOD. I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE FINISHED. I NEED TO USE IT--NOW.
SCOTT'S SHOES
TAYLOR'S
THERE'S A TUNNEL THAT LEADS OUT OF THE BASEMENT OF TAYLOR'S STORE ON 21ST STREET...
TUNNEL
SEWER
SUBWAY STATION
I SEE IT!
IT CONNECTS UP WITH A WAREHOUSE A HALF-BLOCK AWAY. PROBABLY AN OLD STOCK ROUTE.
IT'S IMPASSABLE NOW. I NEED TO KNOW IF THERE'S ANOTHER POINT OF CONTACT WITH IT.
THERE'S A SEWER TUNNEL THAT RUNS PARALLEL.
WHY? KILLER CROC?
COULD BE. WHOEVER ROBBED TAYLOR'S IS AT LEAST AS STRONG AS ME. I'M GOING DOWN TO INVESTIGATE...
IF IT IS KILLER, I WANT HIM BACK IN ARKHAM...TONIGHT!
BE CAREFUL DOWN THERE. IF YOU HAVE TO GO DEEP, STEER CLEAR OF THE WATER TUNNELS.
THEY'RE SWITCHING TO THE NEW DELIVERY SYSTEM AT MIDNIGHT. YOU'LL BE CAUGHT IN A FLASH FLOOD IF YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE!
7

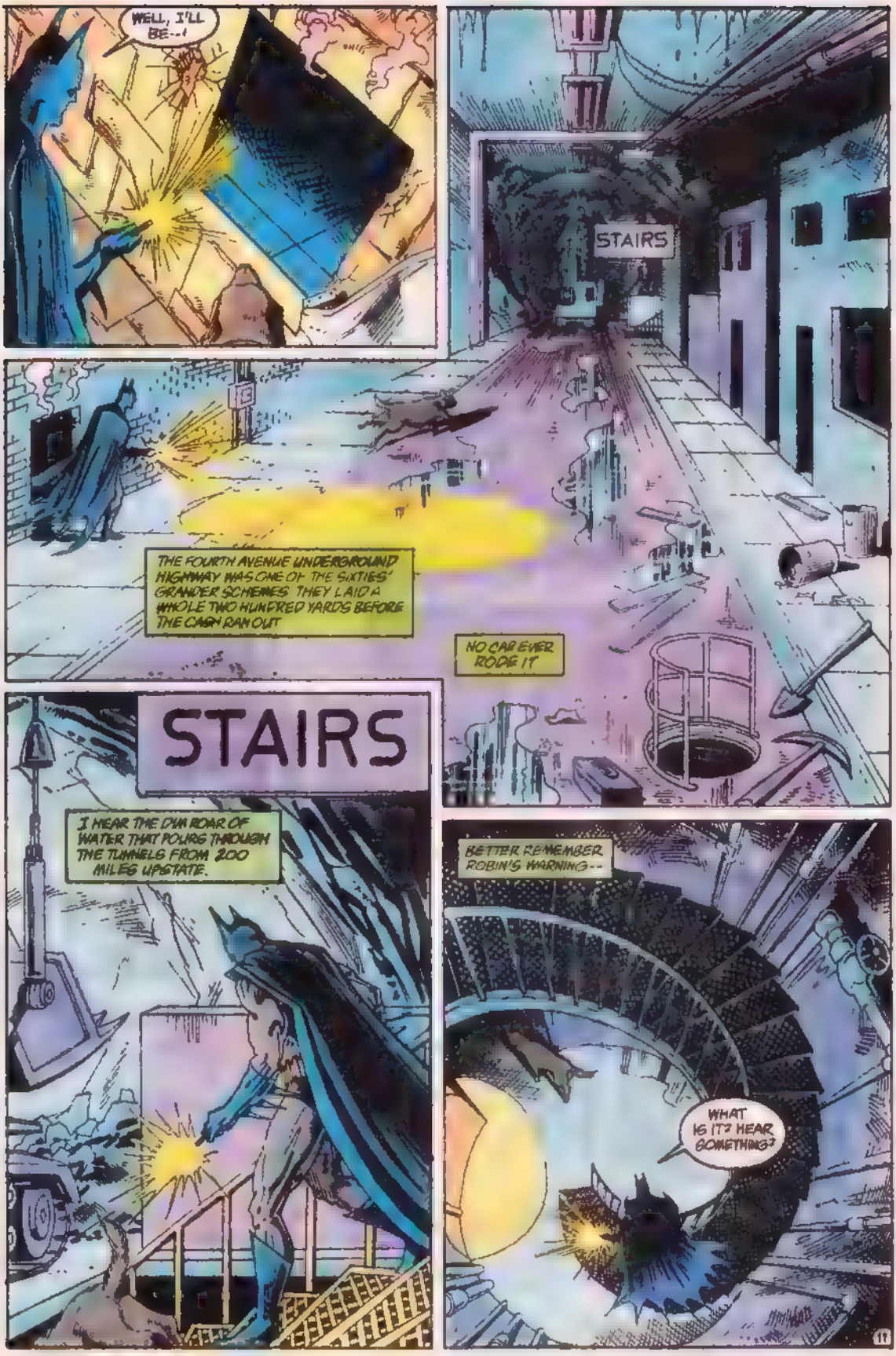

OF COURSE, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
WHY WOULD A MANIAC LIKE KILLER CROC STEAL TELEVISIONS AND DELI FOOD?
WHY NOT HIT A JEWELLER--OR A BANK?
THIS CLOTH'S FROM HIS CELL IN ARKHAM.
SNF
DO YOUR BEST, BOY!
THE EXIT FROM THE TAYLOR TUNNEL!
MAYBE WE'LL FIND OUT.

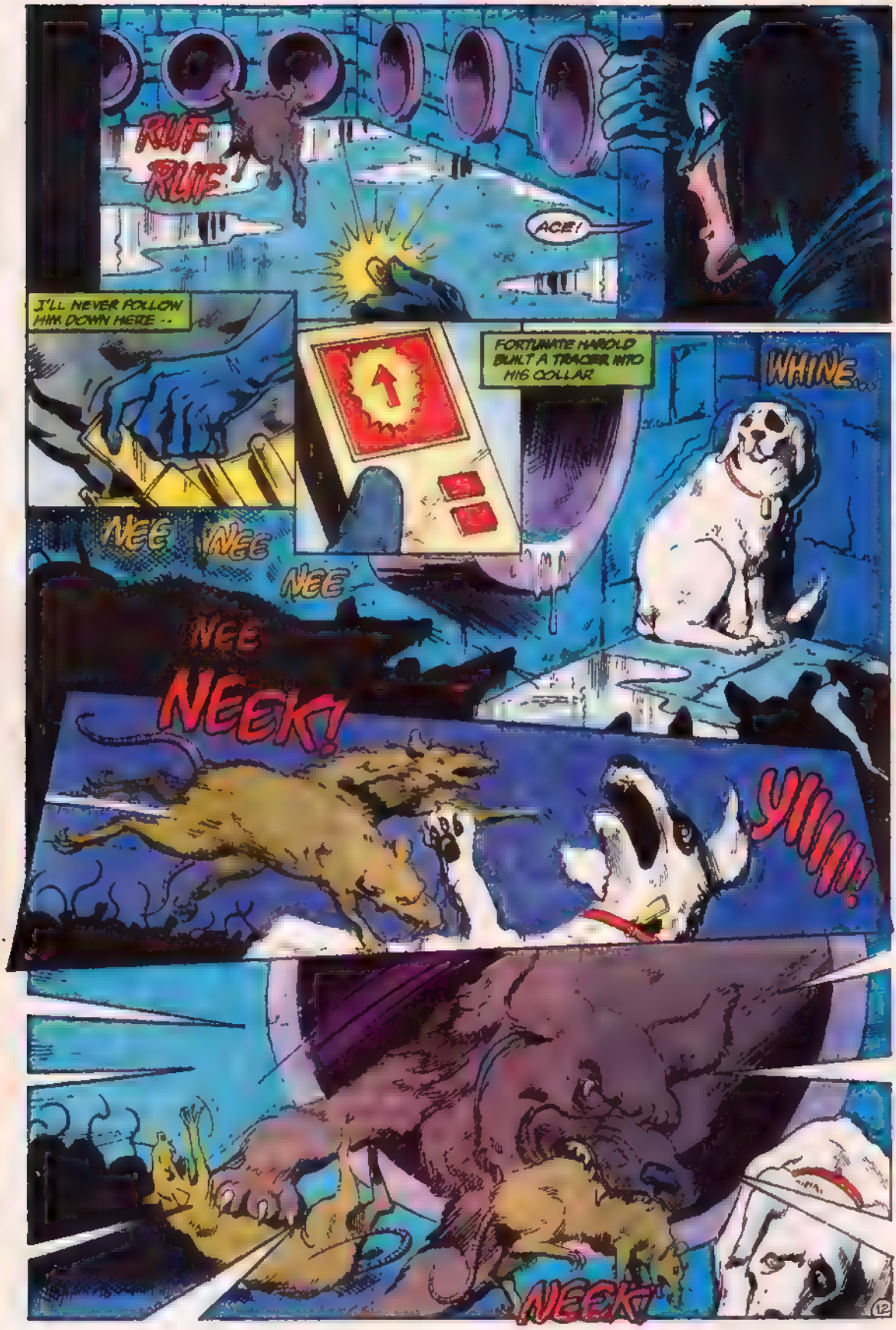

FALLOUT SHELTER
MR. CROC? HAVE YOU BEEN SPOT? I THINK MAYBE HE'S WANDERED OFF.
DON'T SWEAT IT, KID. DOGS NEVER GET LOST!
MR. CROC... DID YOU REALLY USE TO WRESTLE ALLIGATORS?
Taylor's

SURE, KID--AN' BEAT 'EM, TOO! NEVER LOST A BOUT!
MY FRIENDS CALL ME WAYLON, BY THE WAY.
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS.
NO. NEVER HAD NONE TILL I MET YOU GUYS! FOLKS ALWAYS HATED ME... 'CUZ I WAS DIFFERENT, SEE?
THEY THINK JUST 'CUZ YA GOT A SKIN DISEASE, YER SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
FALLOUT SHELTER
HOME SWEET HOME
2%!@$!!
BUT DIDN'T YOUR MOM AND DAD TELL THEM...?
NEVER KNEW MY DAD, KID. AN' MY MOM DIED THE DAY I WAS BORN.
MY AUNT BRUNG ME UP, BUT SHE... WELL, SHE WAS ALWAYS DRUNK! SHE USED TA SING TO ME...
LIKE MY GRANDMA MARCY DOES? SHE'S NICE!
SHE LOOKED AFTER ME WHEN THE CITY WANTED TO PUT ME IN AN ORPHAN HOME. BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY, SO WE HAD TO LIVE ON THE STREET.
I HATED IT--
BUT I'M GOING TO LOVE IT HERE! OUR SECRET HOME THAT THE CITY WON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT--!
KLNK
CAVIAR
9

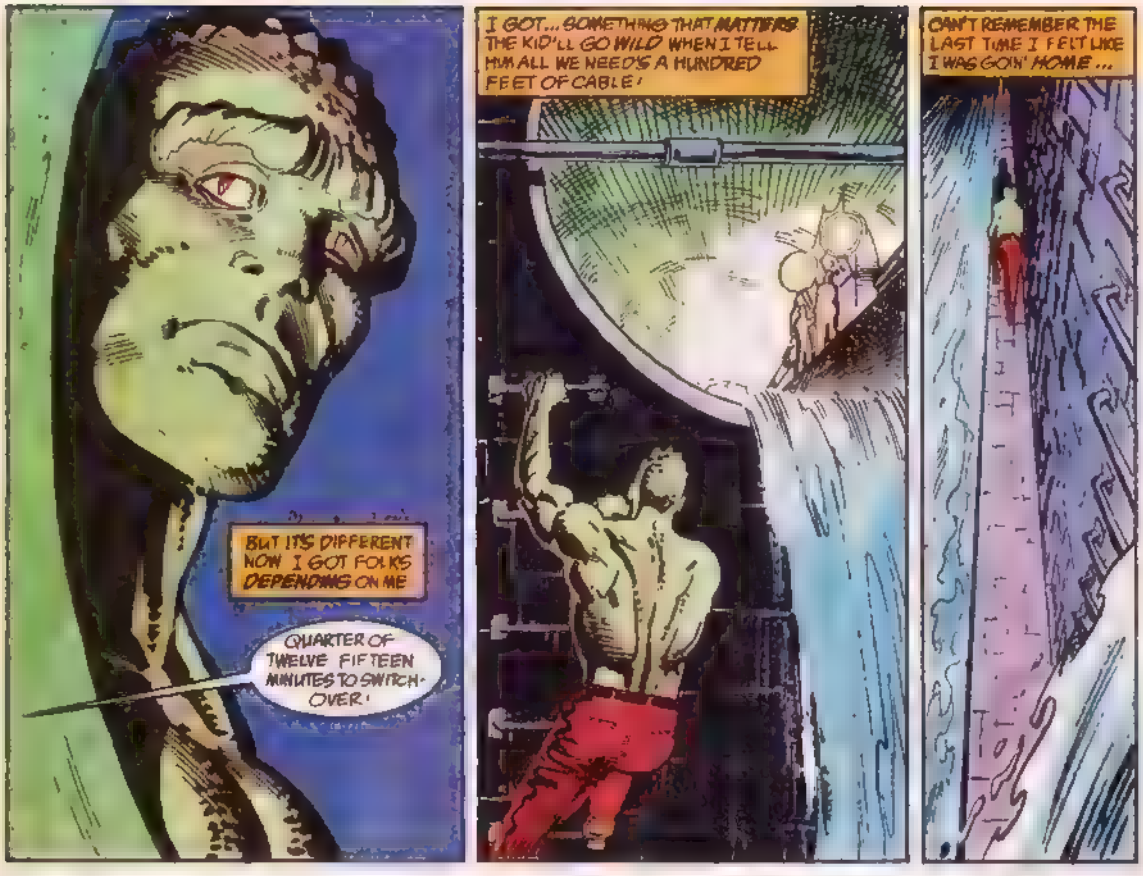

TELL YA, THAT MARCY'S NUTS! NO GRANDKID OF MINE WOULD BE IN A MULE OF THAT FREAK!
AHH, LIGHTEN UP, DAVE! LOOK AT HIM-- HE'S JUST A BIG PUSSYCAT!
YEAH A PUSSYCAT THAT'S KILLED MAYBE DOZENS OF GUYS--THAT THEY KEPT LOCKED AWAY AN' BURNED OUT HIS AGGRESSION WITH ELECTRO-SHOCK!
TELL YA, SOON AS THIS PLACE IS SET UP, WE OUGHT TO TURN HIM IN!
YOU JUST TRY IT, AN' OLD AS I AM I SWEAR I'LL TAN YOUR HIDE!
THAT MAN IS ONE OF US NOW... AN' WE AIN'T GONNA LET HIM DOWN!
YOU CAN REALLY HOOK US INTO CABLE T.V.?
I'LL CHECK IT OUT--AN' KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR SPOT AN' ALL!

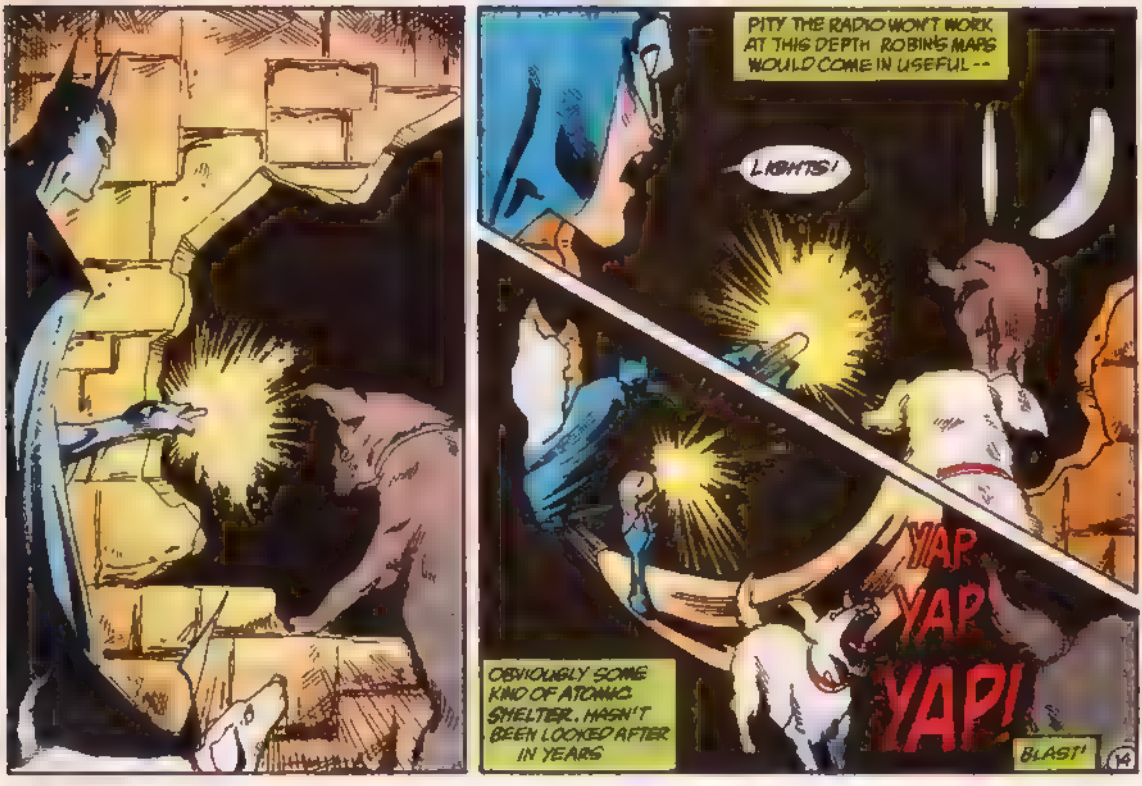

AMAZING HOW SENSITIVE A DOG'S NOSE IS. TRAIL'S A COUPLE OF HOURS OLD, THE STENCH IS UNBEARABLE--AND STILL HE CAN FOLLOW!
LOCKED FROM THE OTHER SIDE KILLER--IF IT IS HIM--IS TAKING NO CHANCES--
BEEP
FWAAM!!
10


WELL, I'LL BE--!
STAIRS
THE FOURTH AVENUE UNDERGROUND HIGHWAY WAS ONE OF THE SIXTIES' GRANDER SCHEMES. THEY LAID A WHOLE TWO HUNDRED YARDS BEFORE THE CASH RAN OUT
NO CAR EVER RODE IT
STAIRS
I HEAR THE DIM ROAR OF WATER THAT POURS THROUGH THE TUNNELS FROM 200 MILES UPSTATE.
BETTER REMEMBER ROBIN'S WARNING--
WHAT IS IT? I HEAR SOMETHING?
11


RUFF RUFF
ACE!
I'LL NEVER FOLLOW HIM DOWN HERE --
FORTUNATE HAROLD BUILT A TRACER INTO HIS COLLAR
WHINE...
NEE
NEE
NEE
NEE
NEEK!
YIIIII!
NEEK!
12

GRAAAAAARRR!
NEE
NEE
NEE
NEE
NEE
ACE? WHAT'S GOING--?
ROWFR
!
LOOS
DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM, BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT--
REMEMBER WHY YOU'RE HERE, ACE? LET'S GO!
ALL DOWN-VALVES A-OKAY!
CHECK!
TIME WAS I WOULD'VE CREAMED THESE GEEKS JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT


BUT IT'S DIFFERENT NOW I GOT FOLKS DEPENDING ON ME
QUARTER OF TWELVE FIFTEEN MINUTES TO SWITCH-OVER!
I GOT... SOMETHING THAT MATTERS THE KID'LL GO WILD WHEN I TELL HUM ALL WE NEED'S A HUNDRED FEET OF CABLE!
CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I FELT LIKE I WAS GOIN' HOME ...


PITY THE RADIO WON'T WORK AT THIS DEPTH ROBIN'S MAPS WOULD COME IN USEFUL--
LIGHTS!
YAP YAP YAP!
OBVIOUSLY SOME KIND OF ATOMIC SHELTER. HASN'T BEEN LOOKED AFTER IN YEARS
BLAST!
14

SPOT! YOU BAD BOY! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN...?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SON--
GRANDMA MARCY! GRANDMA--!
SORRY TO BREAK UP THE PARTY--BUT I THINK YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION!
THE ONLY THING I OWE YOU, ROSEMARY--
--IS A POUNDIN'!
WHAM!

CAN'T LEAVE A MAN IN PEACE, CAN YA? ALWAYS GOTTA BE HOUNDIN' ME--LOOKIN' ME AWAY--
BAM!
BAM!
HOME SWEET HOME
TRYIN' MY BRAIN' STEALIN' MY MEM--
AAAHHH!
GRARR!
GID OFFA ME, YA FLEA-BIT MUTT!
WUMP
THAK!
I DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIS STRENGTH! BEST HOPE'S TO HIT AND MOVE--
KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE, WEAR HIM DOWN--
GRRRR!
SMASH!
STRIKE ONE BATTLE PLAN!

WOOMF!
THIS IS IT, MISTER! I GOT SOMETHING TA FIGHT FOR NOW! FOLKS LIKE ME! GOTHAM DOESN'T WANT US -- NOBODY WANTS US!
HIS GRIP.. TOO STRONG CAN'T BREATHE !
AN'NEITHER YOU NOR NOBODY ELSE IS GONNA FOUL IT--
AAAGGHH!
WELL, THAT SUITS US FINE! WE'LL JUST SETTLE DOWN RIGHT HERE--
DEEP AS YA WANT, MUTT! I'M KILLER CROC! I DON'T FEEL PAIN!
GID OFF!
ROARING IN MY EARS...BLACKING OUT...
ROURSHH
TAKE IT EASY, BREATHE DEEP HEAD STILL POUNDING--
SHRP
KRAKSH!

ROARING...?
RROURSH
AN' AS FER YOU--
KILLER-- HOLD IT!
GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE--NOW!
NOBODY MOVE! YOU TRICKED ME TOO OFTEN BEFORE!
NOT THIS TIME. I SWEAR!
THEY'RE OPENING THE NEW WATER TUNNELS TONIGHT
AND THIS WALL'S SO ROTTEN IT'S LIKE PAPER!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, MAN - LISTEN!
UOOORRRRR
AWRIGHT! YOU HEARD 'IM! OUTAHERE! MOVE!
URSHH SHSHSAHHA
TOO LATE--!
THE WALL'S BUCKLING!
KILLER--!

FLOOURSH
WE CAN'T HOLD IT LONG!
HURRY IT UP, YOU CHUMPS!
AUNT MARCY!
AAHH!
LOOK OUT--!
GET HER!
YOU'LL NEVER DO IT ALONE--
GET HER!
CREAK
I'M KILLER CROC! I CAN DO ANYTHIN'!

THIS IS MY HOME! AIN'T NOBODY TAKIN' IT AWAY FROM ME!
YA HEAR ME? NOBODY!
KKKKKKKKKRAK
WHOOSH!

WAYLON! WAYLON--!
NO, SON.
NONE OF US COULD SURVIVE IN THAT!
HE...HE'S DEAD!
TO SAVE US. HE DIED TO SAVE US!
HUSH LITTLE BABY, DON'T SAY A WORD

♪MOMMY'S GONNA BUY YOU A MOCKINGBIRD. AND IF THAT MOCKINGBIRD CAN'T SING...♫
♪♫♪ MOMMA'S GONNA BUY YOU A DIAMOND RING... ♪
THE END

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*We try to make every issue of BATMAN a special one, but issue #465 was unique. When we officially introduced Tim Drake as the new Robin in BATMAN #457, the question on everyone's mind was, "Does this kid have what it takes to be a hero?" Chuck Dixon and Tom Lyle answered that question once and for all with the ROBIN miniseries. But one question remained: "Can Tim Drake be the Robin that Batman needs?" With BATMAN #465 Alan Grant and Norm Breyfogle set out to prove that, yes, this is a Dynamic Duo that will last. Only time will tell if they succeeded, but judging from your responses, the future looks bright indeed.*

*So allow me to welcome you all to the new adventures of Batman and Robin. Hope you enjoy the ride.*

Dear Dudes,

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you for putting Robin back into this book.

Thanks,
Jason Mattone
2 Oliver St.
Wading River, NY 11972

*You're welcome.*

* * * * *

Dear Denny,:

BATMAN #465 was probably the most heartwarming tale of the Dark Knight that I've ever read.

"Debut" included images rich in emotion too infrequently associated with the continuing dark saga of the Batman; Alfred and Harold engrossed in a soap opera, Batman returning home to be greeted by the wagging tail and joyful licks of Ace, and Commissioner Gordon sharing the news of his engagement to Sarah.

But the most touching scene of all was the last panel on page 20. The Caped Crusader and Robin sitting on a rooftop sharing thoughts. By itself this vision of sharing is one that sets this story apart from most others, for it immediately and profoundly redefines Batman's relationship with Robin. From an aloof, condescending attitude toward Dick Grayson and Jason Todd, our hero seems much more willing to allow Tim "into" his life.

Good luck, Robin...and Batman.

Best Wishes,
Jen C. Childress
82 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

* * * * *

Dear Denny, Kelley, Alan, and other assorted Robin-people,

Finally. At long last, Robin is back. I have been reading this title since A LONELY PLACE OF DYING, and I have been waiting for Tim to join Batman in the corner box ever since. Now it's finally happened, and the way it was done was absolute perfection.

First, the cover of #465 blew me away. "BATMAN WITH ROBIN," the title read, and underneath the greatest team in comics history was framed in spotlight. Then the story inside showed me just how great a writer Alan Grant truly is. In only one issue, he managed to give both Batman and Robin solo adventures, cover almost all the minor characters (the ex-Demonz kids were especially well done), and give us one of the best endings to a story that I have ever seen. And then, Norm's drawing of Robin on double splash pages 12-13 truly make me like his art better than Jim Aparo's for good. I felt exhilarated. This story's gotta win an award. Tim's Dad coming out of his coma and Commissioner Gordon's engagement to Sergeant Essen were the icing on the cake.

This story opens a new era for the Dark Avengers (the Dynamic Duo just doesn't apply anymore), and ends the days of 1-900 numbers determining Robin's fate. I think everybody, Robin fans and haters alike, should realize this; even if Robin should become unpopular again, he'll just quit or join the Titans or something.

"I've...been away, sir. But I'm back now."—Robin, page 9.

Indeed he is. Robin is back...for good.

Pro-Robin-ly yours,
Jay McIntyre
35 Meadow Ln.
Doylestown, PA 18901

* * * * *

Dear Denny and Crew,

BATMAN #465 was nothing short of brilliant! I've been a faithful Batman reader since #376 and this issue has got to be my absolute favorite thus far! (Though it runs in close competition with #400!)

The scenes between Alfred and Harold were priceless! I really had to laugh when Alfred starts talking to the soap opera, "You brute, Pesney! You're a bounder and a cad!" It also appears as though Ace the Bat-Hound has returned to the DC Universe! I thought Crisis had wiped him away; glad to know otherwise! (Now it's only a matter of time before Bat-Mite returns! Ha, Ha, Ha!)

Another high point was Bruce helping out those street kids. I was beginning to think he'd forgotten about them! Tim's father is stirring?! I can't wait to see Tim's reaction! Please don't kill his father off!

Boy, all this and Vicki Vale too! Plus, Jim Gordon getting married as well! WOW! What an issue! When does Barbara Gordon find out about this engagement? Sounds like a guest appearance coming up (I hope!).

I'd also like to take this chance to request that some of the more obscure villains make returns, namely Calendar Man, the Spook, Spellbinder, or Dr. Double X. It would be great to see a Creeper appearance, too!

Thanks for a continually great book! Make Mine DC!

Bob Elinskas
1805 Girard St.
Utica, NY 13501

*Stay tuned for that Creeper appearance, Bob. It's coming up.*

* * * * *

Dear Kelley,

Holy Batman! Batman has gone from dark avenger to family-oriented man.

The cast besides the hero "Big Brother": eccentric "cousin" Harold; "Uncle" Alfred who keeps house and won't admit to watching any soaps, but like a grandmother I had knows everything going on in 'em; the ward, Tim; girlfriend, Vicki; best friend Jim and family dog Ace. This is the strongest supporting cast this book has ever had.

Razor-sharp "R"? Cool.

Melissa Page
238 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

* * * * *

Dear Denny and Co.,

BATMAN #465 was great. The cover gave me a nostalgic feeling. Finally, Batman with his partner Robin. The first page with the two swinging across the buildings was definitely a "debut" long anticipated. Tim Drake already has my vote for the best Robin. He's intelligent, a quick learner, and a good fighter. I love the idea for his three-sectioned staff. I also enjoy his having an "R"-shaped throwing blade. The spread on pages 12 and 13 was beautiful. Robin III definitely complements Batman. One thing more about Robin: when Commissioner Gordon sees Robin and mentions "Long time no see," I had a feeling of pride when I read Robin's response of "I've...been away, sir. But I'm back now." He definitely is.

Some other points I liked were Bruce Wayne as himself, throughout the issue, handling things, and also Alfred with Harold watching soaps.

Congratulations and thank you for the return of Robin.

Lito Pagan
3186 E. Wind Ct.
Crown Point, IN 46307

* * * * *

Dear Bat-Dudes:

Perfect! That's all I can say about BATMAN #465. The art, the story, the plot, the appearances of hardly-seen characters. Perfect. I have been waiting for an issue like this since BATMAN #442. Robin is finally Batman's partner. This issue has made it worth the wait. I was very pleased to see Robin complete with his own grappling hook, collapsible staff, throwing star, and personality. This issue was the perfect combination of action, story, and humor (page 5). I loved seeing Harold, Robin, and Batman's Dog all in one issue. Alan Grant has outdone himself this time (not to mention Norm Breyfogle) and I hope they will continue to continue in this fashion. See ya in thirty (that's almost too long to wait!).

Mike Powers
San Diego, CA

P.S. Robin Rules!

* * * * *

Dear Denny and Kelley,

This is definitely the best Batman story that I have read in a very long time! Absolutely everything about this issue was simply brilliant!

Thank you very much for bringing Robin back. Way back when, I'll admit, I voted to have Robin killed off. It has nothing to do with Robin, I just didn't like Jason Todd. Tim is so much better. Issue #465, Robin's (Tim Drake) first adventure with Batman, was perfect. His costume and little gadgets were totally superb! Again, thank you.

I like the new mode of the book. Batman actually smiled...and more than once! No more Grim Reaper effect. With Harold, Sarah, and Ace (personally, I like Dog better) added to the supporting cast, BATMAN has become the comic book that it has always been capable of being—a fun, thoughtful, suspenseful, no doom-and-gloom comic book. All this from one of DC's British writers, who are known for their doom-and-gloom writing techniques.

Whatever you do, please don't kill off Tim's father. I can see great potential concerning the conflict that would arise if he were to survive. Anyway, I know that Alan wouldn't do this. That would be the lame, easy way out! Alan's stories have too much depth to them for that. Also, let's keep Vicki around for a while, but get rid of that red thing on her head. It clashes with her hair and her outfit!

The crestive team working on BATMAN is the best I have seen in my ten years of collecting. Alan Grant comes up with the most original, interesting, and intriguing characters! The way that Norm Breyfogle draws these characters leaves me breathless! I am so glad that I've been here since his run on Batman began in DETECTIVE COMICS, way back when. I hope he will be here for a long time to come.

Of all the characters that Alan has introduced, the one I like the best is the Ventriloquist. Is there any chance of seeing him again anytime soon? How about Killer Croc? We haven't seen him for awhile. Ya know what, though? Actually, it doesn't matter which villain you use. I have complete confidence in Alan and Norm.

Keep up the great work and don't change anything, unless it's for the better!

Yours truly,
Marc Johnson
1734 Shadewood Lane
San Diego, CA 92139

*Hope you liked the return of Killer Croc in this issue, Marc.*

* * * * *

Dear Gothamites,

If someone had told me a couple of years ago that, in 1991 I would be reading the adventures of Batman, Robin and Ace the Bat-Hound, I'd have laughed. "Debut" in BATMAN #465 was a warped trip down nostalgia way, courtesy of Alan Grant and Norm Breyfogle (the super-team supreme!, and I loved it.

I have never been wild about the idea of Batman being a loner. Obsessed, yes. Grim at times, certainly. Some might even suggest that he's one sandwich short of a picnic and I wouldn't argue. But why, I kept asking myself, should he be alone? And here we are, a grim and obsessed Batman fighting alongside a chirpy, bright kid, a gentle genius and...a dog. Long live the Bat-Squad!!

Really, this was an excellent issue. Tim is good for Batman, as the manhunter admitted at the beginning of the story. This Robin, unlike his immediate predecessor, has got his head screwed on and should do okay. I'm looking forward to the foul-ups there will undoubtedly be, but I think this dynamic duo is going to be together for a long time. Mind you, Mr. Drake senior might just have something to say about that, hey?

Norm continues to etch his name deeper into the ongoing sculpture of the Batman legend. His Robin is beautiful, a bird in flight, but a bird with claws. Look at that illustration on pages 12 and 13! "Awesome," I believe, is the modern expression. And the cover! I could stand to see those two logos together every month! Was Norm perhaps inspired by a certain '40s cover for this scene?

Best,
Dale Coe
56, Whitecross Rd.
Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 1LR
ENGLAND

*You have a sharp eye, Dale. Norm did indeed model the cover after one of the early '40s covers. He thought it might give it a certain nostalgic feel and, judging from your reactions, he was right.*

* * * * *

Dear DC:

Finally, things are as they should be. It's been quite some time since Robin's logo adorned the cover of one of Batman's comics. On the surface, it looks new. On the inside, it looks very familiar. The developing relationship between Batman and the new Robin is one built on need. Bruce Wayne needs a partner in life, but one who can live on his terms. On Batman's terms. Tim Drake is a youngster who needs someone like Bruce Wayne, a man with a direction in life. The caution between the two ("You know the rules. No risks") shows how badly both want this relationship to succeed. Robin's intentionally slow indoctrination to the world of crime-fighting is a process. It will take some time. For me, the longer the better. Just seeing the Dark Knight emerge from the shadows with the Boy Wonder at his side is, to paraphrase Alfred, "the best news I could have." They belong together. Their logos belong together. Things are as they should be.

Rob Sinclair
17-209 Manse Rd.
West Hill, Ontario
CANADA M1E 4Z5

* * * * *

Dear Denny and Kelley,

Robin's first case under the Batman's wing seemed to go well. I'd like to see what the criminal element has to say about the return of the Boy Wonder. Will it be contempt or surprise? The Joker's reaction has got to be seen. For that matter, I want to see Tim's thoughts on some of the criminals. Don't you think Tim would feel slightly overmatched against someone as...the Black Spider? Anyway, I liked Robin's first outing, and I think you have a handle on the character as never before. The conclusion to the story was so truthful. The future does look bright.

Sir Jon Johnson
64 Indian Hill Ave.
Portland, CT 06480

*Heh heh heh. Oh, you'll see the Joker's reaction to the new Robin, all right, but you won't see it in BATMAN. If you want to see the Joker try to finish the job he started with Jason Todd, you'll have to pick up...*

ROBIN II: JOKER'S WILD!!! Yes, it's the sequel to the mega-hit ROBIN miniseries, and it starts next month! Robin has proven to be a responsible and capable crimefighter, so when a trail of mysterious murders leads to Brazil, Batman leaves Robin alone in Gotham City. After all, what's the worst that can happen? You'll find out when Chuck Dixon, Tom Lyle, and Bob Smith return to show you Batman's worst nightmare come true.

The Joker thought he'd killed Robin. Well, if at first you don't succeed...

*Meanwhile...*

NEXT ISSUE: Batman's in Rio de Janeiro on the heels of a killer when he's suddenly faced with a far more deadly foe—one who threatens his very sanity! It's a story we needed both BATMAN and DETECTIVE to tell! Be here in thirty days for part one of "The Idiot" by guest writer Peter Milligan and Norm Breyfogle.

—Kelley Puckett

## From the Den

I hadn't seen Sergius in 20 years and then, within a month, I ran into him twice, first in New Orleans and now coming out of a theater at the Horton Plaza in San Diego. He had the wild gleam in his eye that I remembered from so many furry evenings on the lower east side of Manhattan in the late sixties.

"Good movie?" I asked, nodding toward a poster that advertised *Terminator 2*.

"Movie? *Movie?* Listen, I've just figured this out, so pay attention because it is *vital*. Those science fiction guys like what's-his-name the director—"

"James Cameron?"

"Yeah, him. They aren't entertainers. They're *prophets!*"

"As long as they're not losses," I said. He ignored me, for which I can't blame him.

"Think about it," he said, staring intently at his scuffed sneakers. "All through history, what have prophets done? That Greek ore-something—"

"Oracle."

"—and the Old Testament guys and Nostradamus and all the rest, what did they do? Did they ever say anything straight out? *No!* They told stories or riddles. Well, these science fiction guys, they're saying that if we don't clean up our act it'll be ka-boom, the end, *fini*. Then they put in gun fights and car chases and monsters to make it a story. Only thing is, I don't know if they're *aware* or if they think they're just doing the fights and chases and stuff."

"Interesting theory," I said.

"Maybe there haven't even *been* any real prophets till now. Maybe the others have just been like *rehearsals* to get us used to the idea or something."

He turned and, without a good-bye, loped toward an escalator, muttering to himself. I watched him go, the last of the stone sixties crazies lost inside his own mind warp. Then I remembered that people have often accused history's wise men of insanity. I turned to enter the theater, to be entertained or to learn a grim truth, or both.